

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217692

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEW, EF, PL

SUBJECT: VISIT OF VICE MINISTER OF FINANCE BIEN

REF: WARSAW 2604

1. VICE MINISTER BIEN AND THE POLISH EMBASSY SEEM VERY SATISFIED WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS THAT WERE MADE FOR THE VICE MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE US. THE VISIT TO WASHINGTON BEGAN ON AUGUST 21 WITH A LUNCHEON AND MEETING WITH FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD CHAIRMAN G. WILLIAM MILLER. AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI HOSTED A RECEPTION THAT EVENING. ON AUGUST 22 THE VICE MINISTER MET AT COMMERCE WITH ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY STANLEY MARCUS AND THE NEW DAS AT BEWT, KEMPTON JENKINS. THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF EXIMBANK, H.K. ALLEN, HOSTED A LUNCHEON AND MEETING AT EXIM, AFTER WHICH BIEN MET WITH UNDER SECRETARY COOPER AND EUR/EE OFFICERS AT THE DEPARTMENT. ON AUGUST 23, BIEN MET AT USDA WITH DR. EDWARD
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SCHUH, DAS FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND KELLY HARRISON, GENERAL SALES MANAGER, AND AT THE TREASURY WITH FRED BERGSTEN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. THE WASHINGTON PART OF BIEN'S VISIT CONCLUDED ON WEDNESDAY EVENING WITH A DINNER HOSTED BY CHAIRMAN MILLER. BIEN IS NOW IN NEW YORK WHERE HE IS BEING HOSTED BY THE NEW YORK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK. AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI ACCOMPANIED BIEN THROUGHOUT HIS WASHINGTON VISIT.

2. BIEN-COOPER MEETING: BIEN'S CONVERSATION WITH COOPER COVERED POLAND'S CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION. BIEN TOLD COOPER THAT POLAND WANTS TO DEVELOP TRADE WITH THE US IN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT. PROPER CREDIT CONDITIONS MUST BE CREATED, HE SAID, AND THEREFORE POLAND IS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN CCC CREDITS. IT APPEARS THAT POLAND WILL NEED THE SAME AMOUNT OF CCC CREDIT FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES THIS YEAR, BUT WE ARE NOT SURE YET HOW MUCH CONGRESS WILL GRANT FOR THE CCC PROGRAM. WE WILL DO WHATEVER WE CAN FOR POLAND. SPASOWSKI ADDED THAT PLAND WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN KNOW-HOW FROM US FOOD PROCESSING FIRMS AND THAT HE INTENDS TO DEDICATE MUCH PERSONAL EFFORT TO THIS.

3. COOPER ASKED FOR BIEN'S ASSESSMENT OF HOW THE POLISH ECONOMY HAD PERFORMED SINCE HIS VISIT TO WARSAW WITH THE PRESIDENT. BIEN SAID THAT IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR POLISH EXPORTS TO THE WEST HAD INCREASED BY ABOUT TEN PERCENT. BIEN SAID THERE WAS NO BASIS FOR SOME OF THE ALARMIST VIEWS ABOUT POLAND EXPRESSED IN THE WESTERN PRESS. IF THOSE VIEWS WERE TRUE, HE SAID, POLAND WOULD HAVE HAD TO SUSPEND PAYMENTS A YEAR AGO. IN RESPONSE TO COOPER'S REQUEST FOR AN EVALUATION OF THE DEBT SITUATION, BIEN SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT POLAND WILL CONTINUE TO REDUCE ITS TRADE DEFICIT. POLAND HAD HOPED TO ELIMINATE THE TRADE DEFICIT IN 1979 BUT THIS IS PROBABLY NOT POSSIBLE. THERE SHOULD BE A SMALL SURPLUS BY 1980, HOWEVER. BIEN CAUTIONED THAT WEATHER IS AN IMPORTANT UNKNOWN AND THAT 1979 THROUGH 1981 WILL NOT BE AN EASY PERIOD. COOPER NOTED THAT POLAND SEEMED TO BE ON A SOUND PATH -- ESSENTIALLY THE ONE WHICH MINISTER KISIEL HAD OUTLINED DURING HIS DECEMBER 1977, TALKS HERE -- AND REITERATED THAT THE US WOULD DO WHAT IT CAN TO HELP.

4. IN RESPONSE TO COOPER'S QUESTION ABOUT HARVEST PROSPECTS, BIEN SAID THE HARVEST WAS ABOUT SIXTY PERCENT COMPLETE WHEN HE LEFT POLAND. IT SHOULD BE A LITTLE BETTER THAN LAST YEAR, BUT POLAND WILL AGAIN HAVE TO PURCHASE GRAIN. POLAND'S IMPORT NEEDS WILL BE ABOUT THE SAME AS LAST YEAR. MEAT PRODUCTION IS HIGHER THAN IT WAS LAST YEAR. MEAT DELIVERIES TO THE DOMESTIC MARKET HAVE INCREASED THREE PERCENT, WHILE MEAT IMPORTS HAVE BEENCUT. HOWEVER, SPASOWSKI ADDED, THE MEAT SITUATION IS STILL VERY SERIOUS.

5. FURTHER REPORTING ON BIEN'S VISIT WILL FOLLOW THE VICE MINISTER WILL RETURN TO WARSAW ON THE LOT FLIGHT WHICH

LEAVES NEW YORK ON SUNDAY EVENING, AUGUST 27. CHRISTOPHER

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